

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

JAMES COFFMAN,)
Petitioner,)
v.) C.A. No. 04-10788-MEL
)
DAVID NOLAN,)
Respondent.)

PROCEDURAL ORDER

For the reasons stated below, petitioner's application to proceed without prepayment of fees is denied without prejudice, and Coffman is directed to either pay the \$5 filing fee for this action or submit a new application to proceed without prepayment of fees with a certified prison account statement within 42 days of the date of this Order.

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2004, petitioner James Coffman filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus and an application for waiver of the filing fee. However, Coffman did not submit a certified prison account statement with his application.

ANALYSIS

A party filing a Section 2254 habeas corpus petition must either (1) pay the \$5 filing fee for habeas corpus actions or (2) file an application to proceed without prepayment of fees. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) (filing fees); § 1915 (proceedings in forma pauperis). An application for waiver of the filing fee must be accompanied by a document certifying the amount of funds on deposit

to the petitioner's credit at his institution of incarceration. See Rule 3(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases (if a petitioner desires to prosecute petition in forma pauperis, he shall file the affidavit required by § 1915 and a certified statement of amount of funds in prisoner's institutional account); 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). For the convenience of litigants, this Court provides a standardized form for fee waiver applications. Because Coffman has not submitted a certified prison account statement, the Court cannot make a determination on his financial indigence. Therefore, Coffman shall be granted additional time to file such a statement.

CONCLUSION

ACCORDINGLY, if Coffman wishes to proceed with this action, he shall, within 42 days of the date of this order, submit the \$5 filing fee or a new application to waive prepayment of the filing fee with a certified account statement for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of this petition or this action will be dismissed without prejudice for failure to pay the filing fee.

The Clerk is directed to send Coffman an application to proceed without prepayment of fees and affidavit with this order.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Boston, Massachusetts, this 21st day of April, 2004.

s/ Morris E. Lasker

MORRIS E. LASKER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE